**Ms. McCall**

**English I Syllabus**

**Room:** 125

**E-Mail:**[Amccall@northmacschools.org](mailto:Amccall@northmacschools.org)

**Course Objectives**

English I is designed to meet the criteria set forth in the Illinois State Standards.

During this course, students will:

1. **learn** to enjoy and appreciate elements of literature.
2. **demonstrate** an understanding of grammar, mechanics, and usage.
3. **use**new vocabulary words in context.
4. **analyze** critical interpretations of literary works.
5. **write** well-developed essays, using a strong thesis as the basis.
6. **research**a given topic by using technology and other sources and correctly documenting all sources by adhering to the MLA format.
7. **develop** skills of literary discussion—in terms of speaking, listening, and writing.
8. **write** creatively
9. **demonstrate** various reading strategies while being introduced to new literary works.
10. **be adequately prepared** for their choice of sophomore English class and for real-world application.

**Supplies:**

Notebook to be used **only** in English class. Will be checked every Friday.

Pen/pencils

**Writing:**

Journal writing

Personal Narrative

Poem

Research project

Other practice on-demand and constructed response writing activities

Various reader responses and creative writing

**Grammar:**

Review parts of speech

Subject-verb agreement

Phrases and Clauses

Mini-lessons of mechanics, punctuation, usage, and spelling daily

**Presentations:**

At various times throughout the year, students will be involved in group and individual projects, which will entail standing up in front of the class and presenting their finding to their peers.

**Research:**

We do not do a formal research paper, but we do smaller research projects.

**Reading:**

We will read various short stories from our textbook, plus the following novels: *The Pearl, Of Mice and Men, To Kill a Mockingbird, Shooter, Romeo and Juliet, and possibly Raisin in the Sun.*

AR is a part of the freshmen curriculum and will be discussed further in class.

**Vocabulary:**

Freshmen will have vocabulary workbooks that are kept in the classroom. One unit is done per week. The words are then used throughout the week in various ways.

**Grading:**

Grades will be determined on a point system. Your total points divided by the total possible earned points will determine your grade. Grades may reflect homework, bell work, exit slips, binder checks, quizzes (including pop), tests, projects, presentations, participation, writing, etc. Please make an effort to keep up with your own grades throughout the course of the semester through Infinite Campus. The grading scale will follow the Bracken County policy:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **90-100=A;** | **80-89=B;** | **70-79=C;** | **60-69=D;** | **0-60=F** |

*Evaluation:* For major assignments I will provide the rubrics or explain the expectations that I will use to assess your work. For general reference, however, here are four similes and a metaphor to represent my expectations for assignments:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **√+** | **(A** | Like a double mocha cappuccino with whipped cream and sprinkles, “A” work goes above and beyond expectations. It not only demonstrates an understanding of concepts discussed in class, but also takes risks and presents additional insights. |
| **√** | **(B** | Like a really good cup of coffee, “B” demonstrates understanding of the concepts presented in class and shows thought and effort, but it doesn’t take any risks or offer fresh insight. |
| **√-** | **(C** | Like decaf, “C” work is solid, but doesn’t pack the punch of “A” or “B” work. It’s competent, but not dazzling. |
| **√--** | **(D** | Like the burnt dregs from a gas-station coffee pot, a “D” paper is there, but leaves a bad taste. “D” work just doesn’t hang together and probably shows lack of thought and effort. |
| **X** | **(REDO)** | As AniDifranco says, “The coffee is just water dressed in brown.” While “F” is definitely better than zero, it is clearly not up to snuff. **“F” work is the result of careless work and poor planning.** |

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Follow all school rules.
2. Be respectful of teachers, students, materials, etc. This includes being courteous and considerate; profanity will not be tolerated.
3. Be prepared (on time, work complete, supplies ready, no sleeping, etc.)
4. Be willing to learn and participate. This will make the class much more exciting and beneficial for all.
5. No whining / complaining allowed. If you have a legitimate concern, see me privately, and we will discuss the matter in a mature manner. (If you can’t whine is baseball, you can’t whine in school)

**Consequences:**

1. Writing assignment (if you choose not to do this, it will become TWO detentions)
2. Warning
3. Detention and call to parent

**Homework/Late Assignments/Make-up Work:**

**Homework** is due on time**.**

***Make-Up Work*** is for excused absences only…one day for every day absent is allowed for completingmake-up work. If you miss class, *itis your responsibility to get any notesfrom a classmate, reschedule missed quizzes or tests with the teacher, and collect needed make-upassignments from the teacher – before or after class.*

***Late Assignments***:Your responsibilities in this class include keeping your own up-to-date assignment notebook, maintaining pace with the reading, and turning all assignments in on time. If you do not understand an assignment, ask for help far enough in advance to have time to finish the assignment. If you are having personal difficulties apart from class, talk to me before an assigned due date so that we can make other arrangements. Otherwise, each day an assignment is late, I will subtract 10% from the grade.

**Plagiarism/Cheating:**

I begin the year with complete trust and faith in each of you. Please do not abuse that trust by being dishonest. Learning cooperatively is great, and I encourage you to get together to brainstorm and discuss assignments. When you sit down to complete an individual assignment, however, let the work be yours alone. Penalties for plagiarism—another word for cheating—are stiff. If a paper is obviously copied, whether from a classmate’s work or from the Internet, it will receive **no credit.**

**Helpful Websites:**

* McCall’s wiki-go to this for any assignments, clarifications, due dates, etc.
* [www.grammarbook.com](http://www.grammarbook.com) Great tool for spelling, punctuation rules, and grammar rules
* <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> Awesome site for all high school students
* <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/index.html> Another fabulous web site for students